

CLAIMS

1. A system for tracking search requests on a file-sharing or peer-to-peer network comprising:
 - a computer coupled to the network;
 - a database coupled to the computer;
 - the computer comprising:
 - an interception device adapted to make a copy of a plurality of search requests from the network; and
 - a transfer device adapted to transfer the plurality of search requests from the computer to the database.
2. The system of claim 1, further comprising a query preparation server coupled to the database.
3. The system of claim 1, further comprising an archiving system coupled to the database, the archiving system to store at least one copy of the plurality of search requests.
4. The system of claim 1, further comprising a query processing server coupled to the database.
5. The system of claim 1, further comprising a report preparation server coupled to the database.
6. The system of claim 1, further comprising a query preparation server coupled to the database, a query processing server coupled to the query preparation server, and a report preparation server coupled to the query processing server.

7. The system of claim 1, the computer further comprising a query device adapted to request a library of shared files from a plurality of computers connected to the network.

8. The system of claim 7, the computer further comprising a second transfer device adapted to transfer the plurality of libraries of shared files from the computer to the database.

9. A system for tracking file storage on a file-sharing or peer-to-peer network comprising:

a computer coupled to the network;

a database coupled to the computer;

the computer comprising:

a query device adapted to request a library of shared files from a plurality of computers connected to the network; and

a transfer device adapted to transfer the plurality of libraries of shared files from the computer to the database.

10. The system of claim 9, further comprising an inventory preparation server coupled to the database.

11. The system of claim 9, further comprising an archiving system coupled to the database, the archiving system to store at least one copy of the plurality of libraries.

12. The system of claim 9, further comprising an inventory processing server coupled to the database.

13. The system of claim 9, further comprising a report preparation server coupled to the database.

14. The system of claim 9, further comprising an inventory preparation server coupled to the database, an inventory processing server coupled to the inventory preparation server, and a report preparation server coupled to the inventory processing server.

15. The system of claim 9, the computer further comprising an interception device adapted to make a copy of a plurality of search requests from the network.

16. The system of claim 15, the computer further comprising a second transfer device adapted to transfer the plurality of search requests from the computer to the database.

17. A method of tracking search requests on a file-sharing or peer-to-peer network comprising:

coupling a computer to a database; ✓

coupling the computer to the network;

intercepting a plurality of search requests on the network, where said plurality of search requests come to said computer;

copying said plurality of search requests; and

transferring the plurality of search requests from the computer to the database.

18. The method of claim 17, further comprising sending the plurality of search requests back to the network.

19. The method of claim 17, further comprising adding source information to each of the plurality of search requests.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the source information comprises the geographic location and internet service provider of where the search request originated.

21. The method of claim 17, further comprising adding a time at which each search request was generated.

22. The method of claim 17, further comprising locating a plurality of computers connected to the network by IP address; and requesting a listing of a library of shared files from each of said plurality of computers connected to the network.

23. The method of claim 17, further comprising generating at least one report including data from a plurality of search requests.

24. A method of tracking file storage on a file-sharing or peer-to-peer network comprising:

coupling a computer to a database; ✓

coupling the computer to the network;

locating a plurality of computers connected to the network by IP address;

requesting a listing of a library of shared files from each of said plurality of computers connected to the network; and

transferring the listing of the plurality of libraries of shared files from the computer to the database.

25. The method of claim 24, further comprising adding source information to each of the listings.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein the source information comprises the geographic location of a computer where the library is stored.

27. The method of claim 24, further comprising intercepting a plurality of search requests on the network, where said plurality of search requests come to said computer; and copying said plurality of search requests.

28. The method of claim 27, further comprising transferring the plurality of search requests from the computer to the database.

29. The method of claim 24, further comprising generating at least one report including data from a plurality of listings.

30. The method of claim 29, further comprising generating at least one report including data from a plurality of listings and a plurality of search requests.

31. A system for tracking search requests on a file-sharing or peer-to-peer network comprising:

- a means for intercepting a plurality of search requests on the network;
- a means for copying the plurality of search requests;
- a means for storing the plurality of search requests; and
- a means for processing the plurality of search requests.

32. The system of claim 31, further comprising:
a means for generating a report based on the plurality of search requests.

33. The system of claim 31, further comprising:
a means for locating a plurality of users on the network; and
a means for obtaining a listing of shared files from each of the plurality of users.

34. The system of claim 33, further comprising:

a means for generating a report based on the plurality of search requests and the listing of shared files.